

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00981 292317Z

20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 AGR-05

/078 W

----- 094058

R 292021Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 409

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1607

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 00981

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GR, SP

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION TELLS GREECE "YES, BUT...."

REF: EC BRUSSELS 138

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 28 THE EC COMMISSION COMPLETED ITS OPINION ON THE GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. FROM A PRESS RELEASE AND A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS BY COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES THE ANSWER APPEARS TO BE "YES, BUT." BOTH THE RELEASE AND SOAMES' COMMENTS CHARACTERIZED THE OPINION AS A CLEAR AFFIRMATIVE REPLY. HOWEVER, THEY BOTH NOTED THAT A PERIOD WOULD BE REQUIRED, WHICH SOAMES TURNED SUI GENERIS, BEFORE THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, EVEN TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE COMMUNITY WOULD ASSIST GREECE TO ACCELERATE THE NECESSARY STRUCTURE REFORMS USING, IN ADDITION TO THE NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL, THE COMMUNITY'S OWN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 00981 292317Z

SOCIAL, REGIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL FUNDS. SOAMES SAID IT WOULD

BE UP TO THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED DURING THIS PERIOD, OR SHOULD FOLLOW.
END SUMMARY.

2. ON JANUARY 29 THE COMMISSION COMPLETED ITS OPINION ON THE GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. THE DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION IS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT A STATEMENT RELEASED TO THE PRESS INDICATES THAT THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT A CLEAR, AFFIRMATIVE REPLY BE GIVEN TO THE GREEK REQUEST AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR GREEK ACCESSION SHOULD BE ACCORDINGLY OPENED.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RELEASE THE COMMISSION NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THE GREEK APPLICATION NOW, BEFORE WAITING FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT RAISES PROBLEMS FOR BOTH GREECE AND THE COMMUNITY. THE COMMISSION THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT IN VIEW OF THE SIZE OF THE NECESSARY STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE GREEK ECONOMY, IT WOULD APPEAR DESIRABLE TO ENVISAGE A PERIOD OF TIME BEFORE THE OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, EVEN SUBJECT TO TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, ARE UNDERTAKEN. A SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC PROGRAM IS NEEDED TO ENABLE GREECE TO ACCELERATE THE NECESSARY STRUCTURAL REFORMS. THIS PROGRAM CAN USE BOTH THE NEW FINANCIAL PROTOCOL ENVISAGED UNDER THE ASSOCIATION AND THE COMMUNITY'S OWN SOCIAL, REGIONAL AND AGRICULTURAL FUNDS. THESE ECONOMIC MEASURES WOULD BE COMBINED WITH MEASURES TO BRING GREECE INTO A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS NOT ONLY AS REGARDS EXPENDITURES BUT ALSO POSSIBLY IN OTHER FIELDS. AT THE SAME TIME NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BEGIN TOWARDS ACCESSION.

4. THE COMMISSION PRESS RELEASE IDENTIFIES THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE GREEK APPLICATION AND PROPOSES CERTAIN GUIDELINES FOR APPROACHING THEM.

5. EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN: THE COMMUNITY IS NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE. TURKEY'S AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY ALSO HAS FULL MEMBERSHIP AS IT'S OBJECTIVE. THE COMMUNITY SHOULD URGE GREECE AND TURKEY TO SOLVE THEIR DIFFERENCES AND SHOULD EXAMINE HOW IT COULD FACILITATE THIS PROCESS. HOWEVER, THE DECISION ON GREEK MEMBERSHIP IS NOT DEPENDENT ON ITS SOLUTION. THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO EXAMINE HOW TO INSURE THAT THE GREEK MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WILL NOT AFFECT TURKISH-EC RELATIONS.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 00981 292317Z

6. ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS: STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE GREEK ECONOMY ARE NECESSARY BEFORE IT CAN COMBINE HOMOGENEOUSLY WITH THE ECONOMIES OF THE MEMBER STATES. THE COMMUNITY WILL HAVE TO BEAR MUCH OF THIS COST BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE HOW MUCH WILL BE INVOLVED.

7. THE FREEZING OF EC-GREEK AGREEMENT FROM 1967-74 HAS HAMPERED

GREECE'S ABILITY TO PREPARE ITS ECONOMY FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP.
TO HARMONIZE GREEK AGRICULTURE WITH THE COMMUNITY WILL TAKE BOTH
TIME AND MONEY.

8. IT WILL BE EASIER FOR GREECE TO EFFECT THE NEEDED STRUCTURAL
CHANGES BEFORE BECOMING A FULL MEMBER. GREECE IS NOW FREE TO A
LARGE EXTENT TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT TRADE POLICY TOWARDS
THIRD COUNTRIES.

9. DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY: THE COMMUNITY HAS NOT YET
ABSORBED THE FULL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRECEDING ENLARGEMENT AND
FURTHER ENLARGEMENT MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A STRENGTHENING OF THE
COMMUNITY'S INSTITUTIONS. THIS WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE IN THE
PERIOD LEADING UP TO GREEK ACCESSION.

10. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE ON JANUARY 24 COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT
SOAMES GAVE THE PRESS HIS VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION OPINION. HE
NOTED THAT IN EFFECT THE COMMUNITY HAD SAID YES TO GREECE SOME
TIME BACK AND THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN WORKING ON THE MODALITIES.
HE REITERATED THAT HE SAW THE COMMISSION OPINION AS A CLEAR,
AFFIRMATIVE REPLY TO GREECE AND SAID THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD NOW
SHOW WILLINGNESS TO OPEN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS. IN DISCUSSING
TIMEING, HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO BACK OFF FROM THE LANGUAGE OF
THE PRESS RELEASE SAYING THAT IT WAS UP TO THE COUNCIL TO DECIDE
WHETHER MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE SHOULD BE CONDUCTED
IN PARALLEL WITH EFFORTS TO BRING THE GREEK ECONOMY TO A POSITION
WHERE IT COULD BETTER ABSORB THE DEMANDS OF FULL MEMBERSHIP OR
WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOLLOW SUCH EFFORTS. HE TERMED
THE PERIOD DURING WHICH THE GREEK ECONOMY WAS BEING BROUGHT UP
TO THE MARK SUI GENERIS--SOMMEWHERE BETWEEN ASSOIOATION AND FULL
MEMBERSHIP. HE SAID IN ANY EVENT, THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE
A CONSIDERABLE TIME.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 EC BRU 00981 292317Z

11. SOAMES SAID THAT IN THE PERIOD PRIOR TO GREEK MEMBERSHIP
THERE SHOULD BE CLOSER POLITICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EC AND
GREECE. HE NOTED THAT AT THE LUNCH FOLLOWING EACH MEETING OF THE
ASSOCIATION COUNCIL POLITICAL MATTERS WERE CURRENTLY DISCUSSED
BUT SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE BROADENED AND DEEPENED.
MORRIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU00981
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760035-0648
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760111/aaaaaiqb.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 138
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC COMMISSION TELLS GREECE "YES, BUT...."
TAGS: PFOR, GR, SP, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006